

Catherine Walsh

The Beautiful Untogether



Smithereens Press

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there is a yellow notebook
if I could keep this simple
there might be a process
which could figure a task
sorted out from those items
in a spatially exempt
refraction of implication

whether these individuals
condition an association
may be that spiral set
in its positive linear
control for efficacy removed
a wonderful sense of attention
common among colour orientation

these details as neuropsychological
rotations spanning any diagnoses
you're ill city defined vouched the
expense of accuracy
what observed information
develops as consensus
ayed forwards frames of investigation

what underlies one question
may be attempted in varying
how to adjust flourishing
as honesty compelling
explorations meaning a dream
which is singular spirited replete
abstracts answers beyond ready ethics

tell me a friend a lover
can be so vivid you compel
those resolute pictures
motion with no looking back
can a. detheologise feeling
his readers keep seeing themselves
over anew in vividly compelling

write me a song these questions
of truce or trust this is not
how you deal with bullies
girls you are rapid reconcile
yourself to making the most of
place awareness what pragmatism
get carried splintered to sparkings

or aspects of themselves prefer
not to dance to go out and play
hey you can collapse a sentence
phrases beat residually to
points of advance no such
meanings imagined is intent
requisite to a mechanical skill

instead there are happenings
merging these existences to
responsive patternings unable
to say or see this way forward
as angles bouncing ineptly
reading the iconic smell of smoke
meanders as neatly mapping dispersion

anyone can see derived from
style as any one memory banks
on changes through history hitting
the reflected spot progressing
tensilely in as unmeasured an
enervation or exacerbation of
what stymied or stunned coalescence

experience beyond lips is
slipped in later there is a
lovely component of identification
distinct as those complex abilities
removed from all impression
to subtyping in one altered
perspective lose your bearings

i can hear I can sense
i can hear a sequence of
sensations in an instant
linking experience these accidents
struck through non-chronology
keep going disillusionment
may be inherited responsibly

it was a day a thing called
may be faded restorations
to enchantment memorabilia
a whisper completely wipes
you out of your obligation
or does it become imagination
in a ritual setting apart

remove the vine least those heavy
bunches take the roof down
politics shift realms as advice
coercion expediency
civic business withdraws its
horns completely life as power
(and apparently this line is a deliberate omission)

representing freedom a fashion
for taste is the farthest thing
from care free no considerate
mind may humour itself badly
or over come as rampant self
strangeness distrust entirely as
patterns of seemly patternlessness

plant a new clay by the
path to the shore for cedar
spice bay scots pine to grow tall
lean towards what light reflecting
over a sea battening in
with those winds on the quays
as properties of production

in stretch of sheltering mountain
medieval privilege stands
above definitions wound
classical departures
scattered salt flown wind eroded
tones prevailing sough star
wind swept bleached out pointers

procedures for averaging sit
perfectly as a challenge
endeavour more stimulating
still the day blaze assumed as
human impact temperature
redundant logs piled drying
open hearth grate fireplace

possibilities blowing your own
mind remain extant though as
dislike of pretension pervades
assurances specifically what
honesties experience as long
as accounts of all philosophies
remain viewed as extant variables

forte/pianissimo inherent
tonalities play in experience
these tendencies indefinably
beautiful harbour those
gardens with nurture as edibly
colourful while shapely assuming
well being crunches to dissemination

sing a life you're bargaining
with the pulse which lifts your ribcage
such substance we transfer remains
between latent plangencies as
motes sense empathy through eras
what response can echo features
that which instrumentally phases

it must be a made-up story says
a child quite loudly jumping
skills whenever needed sceptics
being struck dumbly recording
many external diversions
till the comforting ease of
resolution weighed the day

minds' eyes as difficulty reviews
in its own temporality such
resistance to structure defeat
benefits in delusion as
attention to congeniality
otherness are we madder
attempting belief in any cure

would not kill us entirely
to be neat in these ancient
hesitations least accused of
laziness deviation vice
taking some of that anyway
as for anybody listening
yet still hoping to talk

out loud conversation where worlds
sometimes sing halfway rare this
impossible illusion firing
on aspectual perspectives
atypical activated as
talent countenances skills to reach
or eliminate a demarcation

not in the mountains but of their
fiery gaseous underpinnings
governed by similar principles
left out in air light temperature
in general a good thing shifts its
lively peripheral densities
responsibility as nanosphere

against all known viewpoints held
bell sound reverberating
tenuously lifts an assumed
quarrel as resonance shocking
that vertebrate world disavows
its invertebrate forbears
divorces duties' modal constant

world waits wonder rates of exchange
flounder flummoxed in context we
are here far more than we are not
that partial unreliable
feeling of encapsulated
emancipation selling as
structured disembodiment relates

generally to strength which supports
some abilities' talents less blame
for their evolution such certainty
of any abstract complexity
implies a frog-faced turtle extreme
we can not afford to indulge
normally but surpass ourselves

what qualities have we lost in this
hybrid endeavour survival
upright what relentless scale
of development has so blanded
to a possible finite
categorisation we are
washed toned replicated honed

beyond nature cases for
commerce become evident
as dogs used to dream of cats
or stopped strays eyeballing
each in its own manner yet not
quite emitting the same sound
barking through that limned reach

some yester yore faster left till
when tails of light descending or
ascending in a question marked
helix along sedimentary
or composite structures collapse
as thinking those balloon farts
frail inadequacy trailing

if these hatreds were claimed what would
that then become could it make
more contentment ensure comfort
through winter's damply laden poles
responsibility naming
catalyst commits awareness
least as an infant we fail to thrive

such ghosts occurring on the page as
resolutely as indifference
becomes itself not dissolute
resolution unthink this noise
to play what trick on diversion
least itself it should as principle
ruin the day involve your job

ah but the stars will not go out
lights are left by the side of beef
tracing thin lines grey brine in the
lateral grooves butterworker
lights lifted placed in that metal
safe locking the paintbox red door
old key handle left sticking out

the dairy's segue from era
to era largely unremarked
this age encompassed more than five
or so generations by the
time we came along that's counting
in fifty year spans finding less
in those nuns' removals

in to town some miles away where
in dubiously contoured zeal
what wouldn't reconfigure cheaply
was got rid of legacy dismissed
with a reductive symbolic
take on traces original
church graves headstones infant limbo sites

strings stretched tuned for playing songs sung
repeated mossy wreathmaking
sheltered riverside behind a house
then laid by gravestones worn letters
her memory stirred as anecdotes
allow her great grandmother presence
predecessors' connections meshing

millers farmers musicians merchants
in the fadhbh of castlelands which
hadn't always done many good for all
the politicking seems the alternate
take on feudal mind was power-scored too
unegalitarian something
we were never meant to forget

luck privilege even small lots held
some ill-defined tribal principle
where protocol as intent applied
responsibility for yourself
for any and all dependents or for
all and a future pick an order
to fit your ethical dilemma

living the twentieth – twentyfirst century
any wonder wanting to be done
with toothfairies or benevolent
funds for branded caption writing
hierarchies tend to the despotic
a mischief administrating
notional cultures' relevance

or hold out your hand to me there this fog
of morning unleashed wave without
obligation if being is beautiful
as being resolutely human mind
crosses matter resiliently
not so long since western governors
as dutiful norm maimed and killed

tortured flayed late fifteenth century
france or through sixteen hundreds off
in a new world order chaotic
politic turmoil power mongered
land grabbing dissent as difference
shows of autonomy wield powers
as atrocity scared space hope

a human temerity gone
any god a convenience as
scapegoated messenger to prop
foil demagogues self-disinvested
of responsibility killings
struck off as ardour imagine judge
x loved them violently to death

in which contexts could that pass muster
for long versions recalcitrant
children in an abundance of
burning eyes in paintings on flat
walls beneath rims of a world least
imagined as less glamorous than
local perspective shows nature

some may be open yet resolute
astir to guard that flame with care
if any breeze blow it out then
more will surely spark in ready
kindling though collapsed these endings
belched in your face to lines out of
history rattling skewed transience

stay local as an obliquity
worth presenting past its folds of
convention be that garden wall
traversed contentedly moving
least repeating some ones to rest
the case indigenously sideways
what is this anomaly become?

erstwhile protected challenging
coherent linguistic fabric tense
shrugging accent as cant at the door
on our last legs the weather makes
days assessing impact as sound
gale signals landfall laundry pile
flown from a perpendicular

illustrate instants distant loud
impersonal realia test
contrast stylist's ready fobbing
averse upper deck reaches out
sycamore horse chestnut legal
language evidence degrees of
autonomy self-sufficiency

but they may assume from this the
categorical leap to any
propositional collapse or
generalisation without
needing upgrades transformations
however likely it may seem
there is a cold stream left to chase

tracing these points through foggy air
entire that frog would walk away
from a wheel still smoking in the
frosty gleam black tyre displaces
on the hard porous composite
of an old road narrow enough
edges meld call down morning light

make it up give us an answer make
it work cry distracted peoples
accompanying strengths with some
deficits in application
of other associated
talents maybe five hundred years
any time releasing forfeits

sham's solution in the handbook
he hasn't written because it's
'beautiful' gadding without nods
to what futures evaluate
aoife's too seems bereft lacking
colour still senses attention
moving tongues utterances bound

in greys dustier silver light
underbodies of cars rust out
quietly orange tangerine
brown black slivers detaching
traversing weathers salty roads
boglands flat to greenish seas strand
vacant pulled beyond what's further

to see you is as linguistic
as a non-linguistic task for
inestimable purpose as
that life thrives bouncing in balance
amoeba courtly fluxing surf
wave sides tenuous to touch
tremulously amalgamating

is this choice your voluntary
servitude have you woken from
each dream of reciprocity
to some more inclusive pending
pronoun propositionally
available in a new habit
of language yet spoken as tongues

after structured sexualities
in habits of ages form revised
notional social aspects without
even say a received civility
of societal norms so lacking
much equivalence with some
societies' civic attitudes

conviction nuanced noun clinging
to what it cannot capture
share more than own choices open
although it may be transmuted
desire pleasures communication
communication enjoys shared
clinging to where there is going

many years ago addressed as joy
maybe errors from poor memory
later realising it came
through how work read by buddhist
as practice nodding to lore in
sentience commits that richest
self ideas happiness caprice

life what matters even where
rummaging in art classically
imagined as what has never
been is not missed as sailing
any latent sang froid posited
as rationale depletes even
a notional humanity

In Form:

the material clusters
stranger friction
art reach opening an art
 in culture wars
 co-opting enthusiasm
passion in persistence
 practice
 in culture wars
shrilling dogma
(credo en animatus)
insistence culture wars
affect run amok
amassing prevalences in
an emotional illiteracy
of emphatic impact
 in culture wars
a prevailing arts evocation
authenticates practices
in culture wars
the clothesline
the office desk
the bus stop
punctuate as interactions
connect in culture wars
art practising what
may be lived
spontaneously
each approach
an abutment
retrieval foray
 in culture wars

how art walks
actually tells us only
that it's capable
of throwing shapes
or being thrown
in culture wars
art opens
unimagined
yet imaginable
 apertures of
enjoyable communicative
 interaction
 nexus of interpretation
occurrences in which
experience as affect
experienced
in culture wars
out culture wars
change how thoughts
on the line
followed skew
simply the line taken
the mechanics of
holding
 in perspective
as an act of comparison
assembled through shifting
 experiential contextual
meshes of affect
 that is fact
to the person (in which)
and that result
as derivations

of phenomena
consequent
to actions made
or occurred
which is sense
that sensory input
rides those pathways
nudges steers prevents
avoids catches lets go
as actions of decision making
through a mesh of affective information
choice in culture wars
barbaric ties dissemble
Barbaric Tales assemble
drum beat rolls
the everyday is not cognizant of the
extraordinary in ways which are
immediately comprehensible
then note disparities
find how it is to be uncomfortable
in a way which does not
connote problem solving productivity
a stretch as to work with language
in an everyday world made hyper-visual
is to have to recognise the antecedent lines
from which we draw out of which we grow
away from which we move
towards which we muse
in order to return
that sense of attention
which is question
and answer asking
as making art

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Catherine Walsh was born in Dublin in 1964, growing up between there and rural Wexford. Her poetry includes *Macula* (Red Wheelbarrow Press, 1986); *The Ca Pater Pillar Thing and More Besides* (hardPressed Poetry, 1986); *Making Tents* (hardPressed Poetry, 1987); *Short Stories* (North & South, 1989); *Pitch* (Pig Press, 1994); *Idir Eatortha & Making Tents* (Invisible Books, 1997); *City West* (Shearsman Books, 2005); *Optic Verve* (Shearsman Books, 2009);

Astonished Birds Cara, Jane, Bob and James (hardPressed Poetry, 2012). Her next book, chronologically, is *Barbaric Tales* (awaiting publication), followed by this one, *The Beautiful Untogether*. She is a founding co-editor of hardPressed Poetry and lives in Limerick.



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